

Pre-Lenten Activities at Peak At St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

Martha Susan Tanner, infant daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Howard Tanner of Torrance, became the newest member of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Sunday when she was welcomed into the Christian fellowship through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

At a prior service, more than a dozen acolytes received cinctures from the Rev. Hugh R. Percy, rector, marking completion of another step in their training program.

THOSE honored included Richard Alves, Dennis, Harry, and Kenneth Beard, Kevin Faller, Richard Henderson, William Herrmann II, Michael Jelf, Gordon Jones, Gary and Michael Packman, Donald Schadt, and Alvin Schriver Jr.

Coming events at St. Andrew's include a study-prayer group meeting at 10:15 a.m. today, followed by Holy Com-

munion at 11; and the February meeting of the vestry at 7:30 p.m. It will be the first meeting for the vestry elected at the annual church session last month. New vestrymen and alternates will be installed at 9:15 a.m. Sunday.

ST. VERONICA'S Guild will meet this evening also at the home of Mrs. John McMurry, 21821 Marjorie Ave., at 8.

Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, will be observed with a service of Holy Communion at 6:30 a.m. next Wednesday. The Litany and Penitential Office will be recited at an evening service from 7 to 7:45 on Wednesday.

Shrove Tuesday will be noted the preceding day with the annual pancake and sausage supper at the Parish Hall. Supper times will be 5, 6, and 7 p.m. Price for adults will be \$1, and 50 cents for children.

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Church Group Assails Attempts To Enact Sunday Closing Laws

The religious liberty department of the Southern California Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists has filed a brief with California legislators protesting Assembly Bill 289 which, if enacted into law, would force auto sales agencies to close on Sundays.

The brief, written by Warren L. Johns, director of the church's department of religious liberty, notes that the proposed bill "carries implications and problems inherent in all forms of Sunday legislation."

"If it is proper for the state to force closing on Sunday, would it also be proper to require closing on Saturday or any other day?" the brief asks.

"IF THE STATE can designate the day or days of the week a business must close, can it also designate the hour of the day that a business must close or must open? If the state can force a store to close on Sunday, conversely can the state force a store to open on Sunday or on Saturday? If the state can tell when to sell can it also tell what to sell, where to sell, and who to sell to?"

While some merchants would be denied the privilege of selling automobiles on Sunday, neighboring merchants would still be free to sell auto accessories and parts such as seat covers, fan belts, tires, batteries, headlights, floor mats, gasoline, and oil.

B-I-E Day Plans Aired At Meeting

Representatives of Torrance's business and industrial family, along with members of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce education committee, attended a planning session for Business-Industry-Education Day last week in the city council chambers.

B-I-E Day will be held on March 17, as has been the practice in the past, with a briefing session at 9 a.m. to be headed by Dr. Stuart Marsee, guest speaker.

Chairman Dick Herbert explained that the basic principals of the program and of its cementing relationships of business and education is to strengthen the American free enterprise system.

Herbert urged that all industry and businesses who have not signed up to participate in the program do so soon, as 650 of the total 1200 teachers remain to be placed in business or industrial establishments.

Almost three out of every 10 persons with rheumatoid arthritis, the most crippling form of the disease, are children under 12.

CITING numerous other inconsistent sales and rental exceptions, the brief states that the Adventists' Religious Liberty Association of Southern California feels that the bill, as presently written, "raises grave constitutional questions."

One problem, the brief notes, is "whether or not AB 289 constitutes an implicit recognition of a religious practice and therefore an establishment of religion?"

The second problem, says the brief, is, "even if it is argued there is no breach or erosion of the traditional wall separating church and state, there remains the issue as to whether AB 289 constitutes a denial of equal protection."

"FOR EXAMPLE, a dealer or customer prevented by conscience from doing business on Saturday would be prevented by law from doing business on Sunday. Thus, the business week of some would be limited to five days while the majority would have six days. Conceivably, there would be an out-of-pocket financial loss."

Citing the fact that Sunday legislation has always used religious, health and welfare, and business competition factors as motivating forces, the brief says that the proposed bill does not truthfully find justification in any of the three areas.

AS A RELIGIOUS law AB 289 is invalid, the brief asserts, since the specifying of an exact day of rest goes beyond reasonable health and welfare objectives. The business competition factor falls short since the bill, if enacted into law, would not give equal protection nor do away with any sizable competitive practice as viewed from the whole.

The brief cites California's present one-day-a-rest-in-seven law as "in keeping with constitutional guarantees and traditional ideas of justice and fair-play while still effectively attacking a health and welfare problem."

"THE EXISTING Labor Code serves the identical health and welfare needs of automobile salesman as might be served by AB 289. If the state determines that business competition considerations alone are sufficient reason for the adoption of AB 289, the Religious Liberty Assn. respectfully submits that the objective could be accomplished by incorporation of the principle found in the Labor Code.

"A sample alternative wording which would allow individual choice as to which day his business would be closed is as follows:

(k) To perform any act described in Section 285 more than six days in seven."

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